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*This was returned by  
AD/C1 who discussed  
OCI's reactions orally.*

26 APR 1957

183272

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Current Intelligence


SUBJECT: Draft of a Proposed Geographic Intelligence  
Memorandum

1. As mentioned yesterday on the phone, I agreed some time ago to give you an opportunity to look over a draft of our next Geographic Intelligence Memorandum. Its title is "The Role of Water Development in the Growth of Israel" and a copy is attached.

2. I have taken considerable pains to instruct the geographic analysts to avoid inclusion in the drafts of political overtones which might lead to misinterpretation. We fully realize that this type of intelligence memorandum should be used as a medium for providing essential background information of a geographical nature so interpreted that it is of direct use to the intelligence officer concerned with current problems arising in critical areas. On the other hand, a geographic analyst is not expected to expand his discussion to the point of forecasting political actions.

3. As is normal to the format for such memoranda, a map will be included to show in considerable detail the essential elements of the master plan for the development of irrigation. I feel that the map with the accompanying text will be a useful piece of basic intelligence on a subject of important impact that is not fully comprehended by many people.

4. I shall await your comments.

  
OTTO E. GUTHE  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

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Enclosure:  
Subject Memorandum  
(PN-62.1495)

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23 APR 1957

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PN-62.1495

Review for discussion

~~23 January 57~~

Near East Branch

THE ROLE OF WATER DEVELOPMENT IN THE GROWTH OF ISRAEL

The State of Israel has operated from its inception on the basis of realistic planning for expansion rather than on haphazard development. The number of people in the state is the essential consideration to the Israeli Government in maintaining its political development under conditions of Arab numerical superiority and hostile pressures, and this factor has been carefully programmed, also. The Jewish birthrate is 29 per thousand -- higher than the 25 per thousand in the United States and 27 in India -- and this natural increase is being supplemented by immigration, which was increased to 17,000 in 1954 and is now at the rate of 50,000 to 100,000 per year. The total population -- now 1,830,000 -- is to be 2,650,000 in 1961 and for a later date an optimum figure of 4,000,000 is anticipated.

Israel realizes that the population growth so essential to the viability of the new nation is conditioned absolutely by water availability.

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irrigated agriculture is the prime

necessity for national growth. The water supply for irrigation has been developed not so much with attention to cost but rather in order to keep pace with the planned population increase. Although the Jewish population has increased 148 percent since 1948, there has been relatively little change in the ratio of Jewish people to irrigated land. At present the state is on the fringe of a water shortage and

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is reaching the limits of development of the waters within its borders. Drilled wells in the Negev are not producing quantities of water adequate for irrigation in that area and are to be supplemented by raw Tel Aviv sewerage water from Yarkon Springs, near Tel Aviv, and eventually by water from the Jordan River. A major pipeline to the Negev has already been built.

It should be reemphasized that Israel is proceeding on the basis of fact rather than propaganda. The government has arrived at estimates of irrigable land and of water available for irrigation. From a mere 0.45 dunams\* of irrigated land per Jewish person in 1948-49, Israel progressed to 0.62 dunams per person in 1955-56 and is now using about half the water available in Israel for this purpose. Use of all available water would fall far short of meeting the avowed goal of supplying more than twice the present population with 0.92 dunams per person. Furthermore, only by assuming the most optimistic availability figure and the lowest permissible rate of water application could all the irrigable land eventually be used -- a clear invitation to disaster in years of low rainfall.

Various aspects of development of water resources have been under consideration since before the creation of the State of Israel. In 1955, planning had reached an advanced stage; and, in some phases of the overall development plan, construction was well advanced. This plan includes (1) drainage of the Hula swamps; (2) irrigation of the Hula Basin from waters of the Dan springs; (3) irrigation of the

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\*1 dunam = 0.23 acres or 1,000 square meters.

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Esdraelon and Northern Coastal Plains by water from wells and springs, Haifa sewerage, and local runoff; (4) irrigation of the northern Negev by water piped from the Yarkon River, Tel Aviv sewerage, and springs east of Tel Aviv; (5) irrigation of the Tiberias-Beisan area by pumping water from Lake Tiberias and the Jordan River; and (6) a scheme to conduct water from the Jordan River below Lake Hula into the Battauf Reservoir and thence through Faluja to the Negev. A plan is also being carried out, supposedly on a short-term basis, whereby water from the Jordan River is diverted through a power plant into Lake Tiberias. Lake Tiberias serves as an additional reservoir in this plan and water is pumped in varying amounts into the pipeline to the Negev.

The entire program has been laid out in stages that, in the Israeli view, can be reasonably financed within the framework of national goals and can be put into operation immediately upon completion. No single stage is dependent upon future construction, but later stages increase the utility of each earlier stage. In planning pipe sizes on major conduits, a much larger capacity is provided than initially can be fully utilized. The first stages of the program call for utilization of water estimated to be presently available to Israel. In addition, careful consideration has been given to undeveloped water sources outside of Israel. At least one study of the Litani River has been completed for the Israeli Government. Available reports released by the Ministry of Agriculture consistently include Litani and Yarmuk waters in discussions of the "ultimate development" of Israel, but they have been ostensibly excluded from the Final Report, probably for political reasons.

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Planning for internal waters takes into account additional pipelines to carry Litani water and the possibility of diverting Yarmuk water into Lake Tiberias, thus preserving it as a sweet water lake and at the same time permitting total diversion of upper Jordan waters. It is interesting to note that the most recent planning reports indicate that early ground water estimates were overly optimistic, and current plans call for a net import of water into some areas originally designated as water export regions. Development of internal water resources is scheduled to be complete in 1965. By 1960-61, however, major conduits will be ready to receive more water than development plans state will be available from internal sources at that time. For the stability of the area, a prompt beginning and a continuing effort must be made to work out acceptable allocations of water supplies between Israel and her neighbors.